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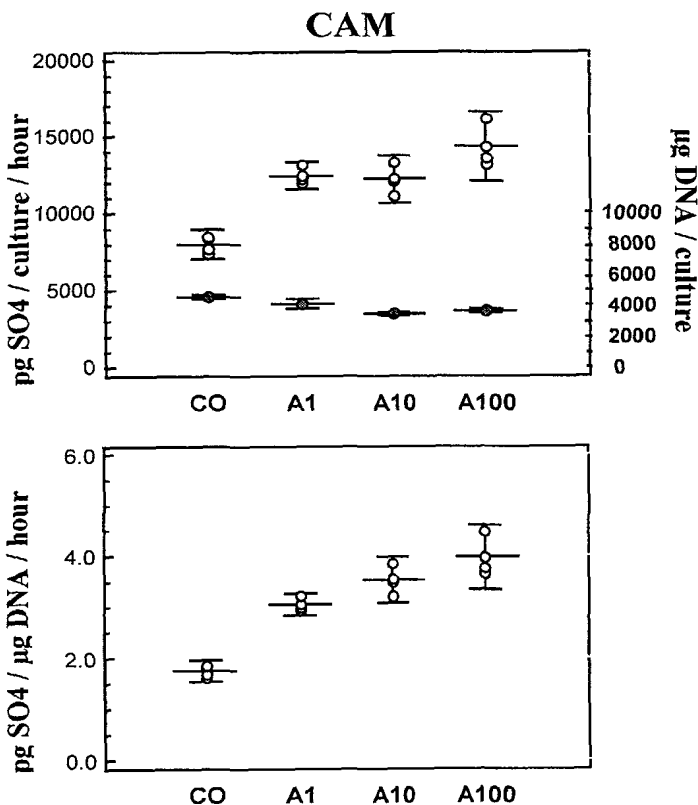
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: USE OF POLYSULPHATED ALGINATE IN CELLULAR MATRICES



(57) Abstract: The present invention describes an *in vitro/ex vivo* method for the cultivation of connective tissue cells or progenitor cells (e.g. chondrogenic cells) in matrix comprising polysulphated alginate. These cultivated cells can be used in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of osteochondral defects. The invention also describes a matrix comprising polysulphated alginate and mammalian connective tissue cells or progenitor cells thereof.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 C12N5/06 A61K31/737 A61K47/36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 C12N A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, WPI Data, EMBASE, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	ALMQVIST K F ET AL: "Culture of chondrocytes in alginate surrounded by fibrin gel: Characteristics of the cells over a period of eight weeks" ANNALS OF THE RHEUMATIC DISEASES, vol. 60, no. 8, August 2001 (2001-08), pages 781-790, XP002331237 ISSN: 0003-4967 page 781, line 1 - page 785, left-hand column, paragraph 3	1-22
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A	US 2003/109493 A1 (VEYS ERIC MAXIMILIEN ET AL) 12 June 2003 (2003-06-12) page 2; example 1	1-22
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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**C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

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